

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Hot Topics from the DOT Office of Pipeline Safety

- * OPA 90 regulation: As of 11/99, our OPA regulation is an interim final rule. It's about to go up to our DOT lawyers for their final review before it goes to the Administrator for signature. I'm pretty sure that, even with the delays of the holiday season, that by next Spring, we will have issued our final rule for facility response plans. I can take a few minutes to talk about what's in it and how it differs from the interim final rule.
- * Regulating aboveground oil tanks: As of 4/99, DOT adopted several key industry standards for tank design, construction, operations, maintenance, and repairs to aboveground petroleum tanks used as pipeline breakout tanks. We're engaged in an active dialogue with EPA HQ regarding how best to regulate tanks and how to minimize the extent of jurisdictional overlap at complex facilities. I can talk about the process, where we are in the jurisdictional dialogue, and our perspectives about where we're going. You might want someone from the EPA Oil Program there to give their perspective too.
- * Trends in reviewing pipeline operators' facility response plans: In 1995, facility operators submitted their original plans for review and approval. In 2000, many of the plans are due for resubmission. I could talk about the trends we're seeing in how pipeline operators' plans have evolved over the first five years of our OPA program: what is improved, and what still needs work.